

Serial No. 10/796,048
Rule 132 Declaration

Docket No.: 249171US0



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Hideki KAMADA, et al.

GROUP: 1771

SERIAL NO: 10/796,048

EXAMINER: STEELE

FILED: March 10, 2004

FOR: POLYVINYL ALCOHOL FIBERS, AND NONWOVEN FABRIC
COMPRISING THEM

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

Sir:

Now comes Hideki Kamada
who deposes and states that:

1. I am a graduate of Kyusyu University and received my Master degree in the year 1992 in chemistry.
2. I have been employed by Kuraray Co., Ltd. for 15 years as a research and development of industrial goods in the field of research and development of industrial goods.
3. I have read and understood the outstanding Office Action of January 22, 2007, and the references cited therein.

4. Deguchi et al obtain a flat fiber having a flattened portion partially or wholly along the longitudinal direction of the fiber can be prepared by subjecting a fiber to a sand mill (col. 5, lines 53-57 of Deguchi et al). A specific degree of flatness of the fiber is obtained in the place where the fiber is crushed physically.

The flat fiber obtained by Deguchi et al's method may have varying degrees of flatness depending on the condition of physical power, and therefore an uneven structure. Moreover, the direction from which the fiber receives physical force also varies, the flat portions are

Serial No. 10/796,048

Rule 132 Declaration

disordered. Using Deguchi et al's method, neither the variation in the degree of flatness nor the disorder of the flat side may be avoided.

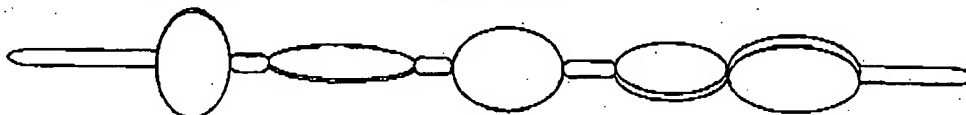
As a result, the flat fiber manufactured using Deguchi et al's method, exhibits poor wiping performance since a perfect fibrillation fiber is not obtained.

In contrast, in the present invention, the degree of flatness is controlled completely and, moreover, a flat side is continuously formed in the same plane. Therefore, wiping performance is excellent since fibrillation advances continuously in the fiber direction and a perfect fibrillation fiber can be obtained.

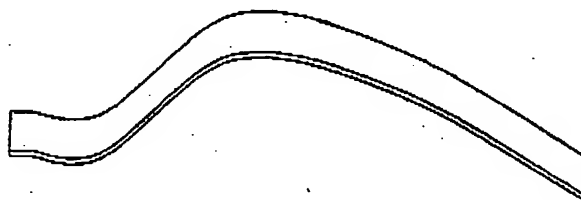
For illustration purposes, the conceptual diagram of the fiber form of Deguchi et al and the fiber form of the present invention are shown below.

5. The following diagrams were prepared by me or under my direct supervision and control.

[Conceptual diagram of the fiber form of Deguchi et al]



[Conceptual diagram of the fiber form of this invention]



6. As seen from the conceptual diagrams, the fibers of Deguchi et al and the present invention are substantially different,

7. The undersigned petitioner declares further that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to

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Serial No. 10/796,048

Rule 132 Declaration

be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing thereon.

8. Further deponent saith not.

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(OSMMN 05/06)

Hideki Kamada

Signature

May 22, 2007

Date